

Washington, DC—Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23), a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, today touted the signing of HR 1105 in to law for over \$28.55 million in funding for projects in the 23rd District. The funding bill encompasses 9 federal agencies and comprises \$410 billion of the federal budget for 2009. The rest of the 2009 budget had already been passed and signed in to law before today.

“The President’s signing of this bill will help to bring home worthy projects and jobs for the military, border security, tourism and our local economies throughout our expansive district,” said Congressman Rodriguez. “Today I testified before the House Budget Committee on next year’s budget for which I will work toward bringing home more projects that benefit the people in our communities.”

“As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I have worked to gain funding for projects in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties and throughout my expansive district,” continued Rodriguez. This year we’ll bring home money for the local law enforcement, transit, water, and agriculture among other things.” Below is a summary of the funding and provisions Rodriguez has secured in the 2009 omnibus House Appropriations bill in the 23rd District of Texas:

- \$712,000 for the purchase of new buses in El Paso County Rural Transit System
- \$100,000 for the Horizon Police Department to make equipment improvements as the city continues to expand
- \$1.25 million for the Riverside Canal Improvement Project, Lower Valley Irrigation District in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties
- \$500,000 for Middle Rio Grande Development Council Border Interoperability which will allow all nine of the counties to have interoperable communications so that they may better communicate and operate the most effective law enforcement operations possible. The Middle Rio Grande Development Council is composed of Dimmit, Edwards, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, and Zavala Counties
- \$285,000 to support the AVANCE MRG Parent-Child Education Program in Del Rio and Eagle Pass to focus on developing cognitive, social, physical, and emotional development skills among children
- \$124,000 to support the enhancement of the Val Verde County Colonia Center through the acquisition of medical equipment and computers to inform patients about medical care available to them
- \$950,000 for the Loop Road Project in Del Rio, Texas
- \$237,500 for the construction and expansion of the Val Verde library in Del Rio, Texas
- \$138,000 for the John Nance Garner Museum in Uvalde to support an exhibit, outreach and educational programs associated with the museum
- \$1.61 million for an Efficient Irrigation Extension at Texas A&M Center in Uvalde, Texas

- \$693,000 for Beef Improvement Research at Texas A&M Center in Uvalde, Texas
- \$1.385 million for the Designing Foods for Health project that cultivates more nutritious fruits and vegetables at Texas A&M Center in Uvalde, Texas
- \$206,000 for Wool and Animal Fiber Research at Texas A&M Center in Uvalde, Texas
- \$98,257 for the Pecos Economic Development Corporation to expand services for small business and increase opportunities for economic development
- \$1.434 million for Sustainable Agricultural Freshwater Conservation for the Sul Ross and Texas State University System.
- \$10 million for the Mission Reach San Antonio River Improvement Project to continue the work SARA has done. Improvements along the Mission Reach will focus on ecosystem restoration using a technique known as fluvial geomorphology. This technique will transform the straightened river to replicate the original flow of the river while increasing flood control, reducing erosion, re-introducing native vegetation and creating an environment more suitable for recreation and wildlife.
- \$427,500 for a study that would further allow for Fort Sam Houston access improvements. In 2005, the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) recommended expanding Fort Sam Houston into the U.S. Military's premier medical training base and making it home to the Army's installation management and management of family support activities and community programs.
- \$1,187,500 for various airfield improvements at the San Antonio International Airport
- \$500,000 for the San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS) State and Tribal Grants (STAG) for funding to support the renewal of the wastewater collection system in various areas of San Antonio
- \$475,000 for VIA Metropolitan Bus Facility Improvements and Bus Fleet Modernization in San Antonio
- \$285,000 for the East Side Community Clinic in San Antonio to establish a new Community Healthcare Clinic on the East Side of San Antonio that will provide vital medical services, such as pharmaceutical, nursing, nutrition counseling, and optometry services, currently unavailable or inaccessible to many in the area
- \$574,000 for a Nueces River and Tributaries feasibility study of the complex relationships between surface water, groundwater and the varying ecosystems and communities dependent on water. The study will produce recommendations of individual projects or a combination of projects to improve environmental resources within the watershed. Non-Federal sponsors for the study include the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), San Antonio Water System (SAWS), the Nueces River Authority (NRA), and others
- \$382,000 for a multipurpose, multi-objective watershed study to address flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, water supply and water quality in the Guadalupe and San Antonio River Basins which includes Leon Creek, Salado Creek, Alamo Heights, and Cibolo Creek
- \$285,000 to fund an academic program at Alamo Community College in San Antonio for students to obtain training and earn an associates degree in Air Traffic Control, a job sector that has experienced a great deal of growth
- \$475,750 for the Bexar County Parking Garage Photovoltaic Panels for the purpose of re-charging plug-in hybrid vehicles
- \$500,000 for the Medina County Sheriffs Office for Medina Mobile Data Systems which would allow for purchase of an emergency radio communications system

- \$147,386 Alamo Work Source in Hondo, Texas to expand employment opportunities for economic development
- \$253,000 for the City of Hondo in State and Tribal Grants (STAG) for funding to support a sanitary sewer overflow water study

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